

Confidential until released for publication as under :-

Evening Papers .. Friday, 15th June, 1945.
Morning Papers .. Saturday, 16th June, 1945.

VEGETABLE ACREAGES IN QUEENSLAND.

The collection and compilation of statistics of the proposed plantings of vegetable growers throughout Queensland has been continued to assist the Department of Agriculture and Stock in its efforts to secure a more orderly flow of vegetables to market.

During recent months, returns have been received from 11,732 growers, of whom 9,768 had planted, or intended planting, vegetables during the months of January to June, 1945. The number of growers planting vegetables for human consumption during this period is 8,743, while 4,084 growers anticipated planting vegetables for animal fodder.

The table below shows, for each type of vegetable planted for human consumption, the total of the proposed acreages for the first six months of 1945, together with comparative figures for the same period of 1944 and the increase or decrease in 1945 on 1944. In addition, there were, for the first six months of 1945, proposed plantings of 18,742 acres of various types of vegetables for animal fodder, compared with 2,758 acres for the same period of 1944.

Proposed Plantings of Vegetables for Human Consumption.

Vegetable.	Six Months January to June -		Increase or Decrease (-)	
	1945.	1944.	in 1945 compared with 1944.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Per Cent.
Potatoes (English) ..	12,718	14,959	- 2,241	- 15
Potatoes (Sweet) ..	2,253	1,258	995	79
Turnips (Swede) ..	1,118	741	377	51
Turnips (White) ..	122	100	22	22
Carrots ..	1,201	984	217	22
Beetroot ..	1,513	774	539	70
Onions (White) ..	1,038	572	466	81
Onions (Brown) ..	2,023	1,036	987	95
Tomatoes ..	8,457	7,349	1,108	15
Beans (French) ..	5,407	3,927	1,480	38
Beans (Navy) ..	1,551	669	882	132
Green Peas ..	2,688	1,919	769	40
Cabbages ..	2,392	1,777	615	35
Cauliflowers ..	1,040	706	334	47
Lettuce ..	573	382	191	50
Melons (Water) ..	394)	396	182	46
Melons (Rock) ..	184)			
Pumpkins ..	24,213	10,833	13,380	124
Marrows and Squashes	1,089	407	682	168
Cucumbers ..	2,880	1,444	1,436	99
Sweet Corn ..	264	178	86	48
Other Vegetables ..	590	373	217	58
TOTAL:	73,508	50,784	22,724	45

Increases of 45 per cent. or more are shown by marrows and squashes, navy beans, pumpkins, cucumbers, onions, sweet potatoes, beetroot, swede turnips, lettuce, sweet corn, cauliflowers, and melons.

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14th June, 1945.

Comments by Department of Agriculture and Stock.

Having compared the figures with the acreage targets set by the Commonwealth Government, the Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Stock, comments as follows :-

SWEET POTATOES:

Heavy over-planting is shown for January and February, but from March to June plantings are greatly below the target.

SWEDE TURNIPS:

Plantings for each month except June exceed the target figures, particularly for the months of February and March.

WHITE TURNIPS:

Plantings are approximately equal to requirements.

CARROTS:

In February, March, and April, plantings were about double the target, but they were just about equal to requirements in the other three months.

BETROOT:

The acreages for February, March, and April greatly exceed the target figures, and for the other months they are ample.

ONIONS:

As usual, very heavy plantings are shown for March, April, and May, but they are insufficient in the other months.

TOMATOES:

Plantings from January to April are approximately double that shown as required for local needs, but doubtless the surplus will be exported. May and June plantings are also greater than the target figures, but to a lesser extent than for the earlier months.

FRENCH BEANS:

For each of the six months and particularly for March, April, and May, the anticipated acreage exceeds the target figure.

GREEN PEAS:

Sufficient acreage is indicated for each month, and for February and March particularly the target figures have been very much exceeded.

CABBAGES:

Plantings during January, February, and March were more than double the target figures, but for May and June there are deficiencies of 25 and 65 acres, respectively.

CAULIFLOWERS:

The anticipated plantings were considerably higher than the target figures for the months of January to April, but there is a deficiency of 30 acres for the month of June.

LETTUCE:

Only for March has the target figure been exceeded. Anticipated plantings for May and June are 25 and 35 acres, respectively, below the totals required.

PUMPKINS AND MARROWS:

The target figures have been exceeded in each month except April and May.

CUCUMBERS:

Plantings for each month greatly exceed the target figures. The lowest monthly acreage is shown for May, but even this was 90 acres too high.